

## HEALTH ADVISORY: TESTING CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 April 3, 2020

### Background

This advisory is an update to guidance for healthcare providers that was provided on March 26, 2020, on testing criteria and disease reporting.

### COVID-19 Testing Priorities:

CDC has updated the testing priorities on March 24, 2020. Please see “**Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**” [here](#).

Based on local community transmission of COVID-19 infections, Metro Health will utilize the following priorities for testing. These priorities supplant the previous testing guidelines issued March 14, 2020. *Neither flu testing nor travel are prerequisites for testing at this time. Referral from a physician is no longer necessary. Instead, people should use the Self-Screening Tool at [sanantonio.gov/covid19](http://sanantonio.gov/covid19). People who screen positive will be provided access to testing.*

#### **PRIORITY 1**

**Ensure optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of nosocomial infections, and maintain the integrity of the healthcare system**

- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers
- First responders with symptoms
- Symptomatic staff working in high-risk congregate settings (i.e. correctional facilities, homeless shelters)

#### **PRIORITY 2**

**Ensure that those who are at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged**

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms (i.e. SAWS, CPSenergy, airport, VIA)

#### **PRIORITY 3**

**As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers**

- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high COVID-19 hospitalizations

#### **NON-PRIORITY**

- Individuals without symptoms



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

**Reporting of Cases:**

COVID-19 is a notifiable condition under Texas statute. All suspected and confirmed cases are to be [called immediately](#) to the local health department. In addition, please submit lab results, demographics, and clinical progress notes via fax to:

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
Epidemiology Program  
Phone: (210) 207-8876 (24 hours)  
Fax: (210) 207-8807